

# Richland attorney to run for judge seat

By Kristin M. Kraemer, Herald staff writer

A Richland attorney who has filled in as a temporary judge for the last decade wants to unseat an incumbent on the Benton County District Court.

Dave Petersen announced Monday that he will challenge Judge Joe Burrowes in the upcoming election.

Petersen was one of four candidates considered last September by the Benton County commissioners after moving to a five-judge, zero-court commissioner system for District Court.

Burrowes, who had been serving as a court commissioner since 2007, was promoted to a full judge position and now is seeking to retain his seat.

Petersen noted that selection by commissioners came after an interview process, and "believes the citizens of Benton County should be allowed to exercise their right to vote for their District Court judge."

A Kennewick native, Petersen started his legal career in 1997 as a deputy prosecutor with Franklin County for two years, then went into private practice. He is a partner at Cowan Moore Stam Luke & Petersen in Richland.

Petersen has served as a judge pro tem in both Benton and Franklin County District Courts and Pasco Municipal Court for more than 10 years. He also provides pro bono services to the Benton-Franklin Legal Aid Society, serves as a guardian ad litem and is on the local committee for the annual National Adoption Day celebration.

"I have been a judge pro tem longer than my opponent has been a lawyer. But equally important, I have the personal experience, the character and the integrity to represent the legal system well," Petersen said. "And how you run a courtroom and how the people are treated is equally as important as your legal knowledge."

Petersen served in the Army on active duty, followed by six years with the Army National Guard. He believes that military service helps him in the courtroom "both in control of the bench and in control of myself."

Petersen lives in Kennewick with his wife, Dena, and their three daughters.

His campaign website is [daveforjudge.com](http://daveforjudge.com).